Nuggets Of News

504 First Avenue
P. O. Box 26
Gold Hill, Oregon 97525
(503) 855-1182
September, 1995

ANNUAL POTLUCK

Our annual potluck, which was held on Sunday, August 20th was well attended and enjoyed by all. Thirty people signed our guest register, so total attendance was somewhere over that number. As usual, the food was terrific, and Ted Wharton did his customary outstanding job barbecuing the chicken. We learned a lot from last year's "bash", and oriented the food tables to a spot which stayed shady. The Wharton's also generously loaned a screened gazebo in which we placed the food tables, and Armella made a net cover for the food table. It was great not fighting flies and bees this year! Our new patch of lawn was a joy, and proved large enough for all of us. When fall arrives we'll work on preparing and seeding the rest of the lawn area. During the business meeting, a plaque was presented to President, Marge Martin, in appreciation of the many hours of devoted and selfless service she has given to all of us. We played "Blackout Bingo" again this year, and it was a really wild game. We sincerely hope we'll see some new faces at next year's "doings".

GOLD DUST DAY

Gold Dust Day, June 10, 1995, dawned cool and cloudy but the runners and parade marchers really appreciated the temperate day with its periods of sun and clouds. The parade was a great one with our own Alyce Bottelson as Grand Marshall. Gold Hill Historical Society Secretary, Ted Wharton, outdid himself on the float and we once again took first prize. This year Ted came up with a mine cart entering and exiting a mine via narrow gauge rails, with each emergence from the mine heartily cheered by two miners, played by Ted and Tom Cushman. The entire float was powered by-an ATV, disguised as a donkey, and driven by Ted's grandson, Matt Saddler.

After parade activities in the park were many and varied, and seemed to be enjoyed by all. We manned a booth once again with helium balloons, face painting, and a small assortment of gift shop items. We managed to keep busy, and the children especially enjoyed the face painting. About 3:00 p.m. the wind started blowing and the rain once again descended, so we packed our wares and left. The weather had to be a great disappointment to Gold Dust Day Coordinators who had arranged music and street dancing to last until 9:00 p.m., but were rained out.

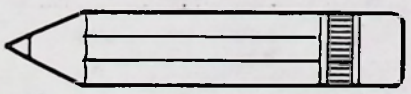
GOLD HILL SCHOOL REUNION

The 1995 Gold Hill School reunion was held Saturday and Sunday, June 24th and 25th, and by all accounts was well attended and enjoyed. We sent some of the museum's school artifacts, and enjoyed museum visits by many of the former students. We look forward to the reunion each year, with the increased interest in the history of our area.

CENTENNIAL ART & WRITING CONTEST

The art and writing contest which was jointly sponsored by Gold Hill Friends of the Library, Patrick Elementary School, the Jackson County Library System and the Gold Hill Historical Society had many, well thought out and executed entries. Kindergarten thru third grade did artwork based on the history of Gold Hill. Their work was judged by the public at Gold Dust Day with the following results:

First place: Trevor Whitted; second place: Aaron Ruston; third place: Jenna Wright. Honorable mention: Samuel Oxford, Jeremy Hagar, Jessica Shefcheck and Melissa Shefcheck.



The writing contest, with the same theme, was open to students, fourth through eighth grade. Their work was judged by Jeannette Blankenship, Elizabeth Udal and Lori Hettman with the following results:

4th and 5th grade --- First place: Jessica Wells; second place: Jessica Durbin and Lindsey Fauble (joint effort); third place: Rebecca Kemp and Maegan Bettencourt (joint effort); Honorable Mention: Jason McKinney, Stephanie Sanders; 6th through 8th grade --- first place; Donna Shefcheck.

First place winners received a $50 U. S. Savings Bond, second place a pizza from Maggie's Pizza and third place an *Errata-Historical Puzzle Book*.

The artwork and essays are currently on display at the museum. Display will be transferred to Patrick School shortly after it reopens in September and eventually copies of the artwork and essays will be on permanent display in the Gold Hill Library and the Gold Hill Historical Society Museum.

APPLEGATE TRAIL

During the year 1843, the three Applegate brothers, Lindsay, Jesse and Charles, and their families crossed the plains with the first major migration over the Oregon Trail. Their arrival was amidst grief of the tragedy that struck at the most hazardous part of the journey, while traversing the rapids of the Columbia River. Both Jesse and Lindsay lost 10 year old sons when the boat they were in capsized near the Dalles.

Pondering this tragedy, the brothers resolved they would search for and find a better route. In the spring of 1844 they had located on Salt Creek west of the present day city of Dalles. They brought their cattle and wagons from Walla-Walla, built cabins and put in crops. Meanwhile, the Government hoped someone would find a better route for immigrants to follow. Therefore, the brothers felt the time was

right for the search to be made. Charles stayed behind to tend to the families while Lindsay and Jesse formed a scouting party. They were joined by a Levi Scott who had some information on the routes not to follow. They then visited with Peter Skene Ogden and John C. Fremont, famous frontier men and decided to follow the trappers route south up the Willamette Valley, over the Umpqua and into the Rogue Basin. Thirteen men, each with his own saddle horse, pack horse and supplies, led by Jesse Applegate, headed south. The trail approximately followed the present day route of the old Highway 99. Just south of the present day site of Ashland they left the trappers trail and headed east. They reached the Greensprings Mountain summit at a pass where the present Highway 66 crosses. Crossing the Klamath River the party headed south and around Lower Klamath Lake hoping to connect with the California trail where it branches off the Oregon Trial Their guess was wrong however, and they had quite some distance yet to go. Local Indians helped guide them over natural crossings and passes. Traveling south of Goose Lake, across Warner Mountain, through Surprise Valley, past the Alkali Lakes to High Rock Canyon and across Black Rock Desert. They reached the Humboldt River just south of Winnemucca, Nevada early in the summer of 1846. A camp was established where some of the party stayed while the rest went on to Fort Hall, Idaho to obtain supplies and advise travelers they had scouted out a new route to Oregon turning north from the California trail.

Greeting the news of a new and hopefully better route with enthusiasm, some 300 men, women and children with nearly 100 wagons converged at Winnemucca to travel the new route. In their enthusiasm the Applegate party failed to advise the immigrants the route had not been cleared yet for wagon travel. Learning this fact, a group of hardy men went ahead to clear the route while Levi Scott agreed to lead the train. The travelers had scarcely sixty days to cover more than 500 miles of rough and treacherous terrain, mountains and desert, before winter. They did not know it yet but the winter of 1846-1847 would be a record year of snowfall, starting early. In fact, this was the year of the fateful Donner party demise.

Indian trouble was encountered only once during the trip when a David Tanner, driving some stock was waylaid and killed by Indians who had been following the train. They obviously wanted the cattle which they took, leaving Tanner's body in some bushes. Going was slow but the train, although caught by the early snows, managed to reach the Rogue Valley as the winter rains set in. The trip on north to the Willamette Valley proved arduous and discouraging. Fighting the rains and mud, the train was stretched out for many miles. When the leading elements of the train arrived in the Willamette Valley they were met with much surprise since they had expected them by the northern route. Rescue parties went immediately to the aid of those in the train most in need.

Jesse Applegate and his brother were blamed for all the hardships of the journey but others, including Levi Scott, supported them. The new route eventually contributed substantially to the development of the Northwest. There is little doubt that the first travelers who blazed open the Applegate Trail underwent a great deal of suffering, but as time went by, the route proved its worth.

The California Trail was often confused with the Oregon Trail and even the Mormon Pioneer Trail. Wagon trains leaving Missouri were often composed of travelers bound for both Oregon and California. Those going to Oregon either took the Oregon Trail or took the California Trail to the point where the Applegate Trail branched off while those headed for California continued on.

This brief accounting of the history of the Applegate Trail was compiled by Ted Wharton who is on the board of the Jackson County Applegate Trail Celebration Committee. He is representing the City of Gold Hill for this event in 1996, the 150 year (Sesquicentennial) Celebration. A wagon train will traverse the route starting at Winnemucca, Nevada and is scheduled to pass through Gold Hill. Dates the event will occur are yet to be announced.

CENTENNIAL MEDALLION SALES

Sales are going well, but just a reminder that they will end with the centennial year. If you're waiting to purchase medallions for Christmas gifts or some other reason, please be sure not to miss out, and call to reserve yours. That way, we'll be sure to order enough from the mint to have enough on hand to supply all that are wanted.

A LETTER FROM MARK CAMPBELL

August 10, 1995

Dear Ted & Armella,

Surely enjoyed my visit with you! On Monday I drove to Santa Nella, a crossroads/truckstop/motel complex near Los Banos, about 50 miles south of Stockton. Then with an early start the next day I reached home just before 3:00P, finding everything as I had left it. A neighbor had thoughtfully watered a couple of brown spots where the sprinkler timing was too short. At the postoffice I picked up the mail, which was the usual collection of bills and junk.

I was very impressed with the Gold Hill Historical Museum! I think it really captures the image of the Gold Hill community and its activities from the start of gold mining through the turn of the century, through the era of the cement plant and into the present. The meaningful exhibits have flowed into all corners of the new quarters, and I can see that even more space could be utilized. The computerized data base, essential for a well organized record of artifacts, documents and pictures, is a good one. The system for copying and reproducing old photographs seems very efficient. All those who have worked so hard to bring this about deserve a lot of credit!

Armella, thank you again for all the delicious cookies! They helped to keep up my energy during the journey home, and are really making life pleasant. And my mouth waters when I remember the dinner of tender steak, mashed potatoes with onions, with sweet corn and tomatoes fresh out of the garden.

It was fun trying to learn to drive the six-wheeler, but it turned out to be a pretty dusty business. I enjoyed our picnic by the creek; it was a beautiful setting, in a section of the woods I had not visited before. Interesting to go out through Sams Valley to the upper reaches of Evans Creek, then back down by way of Rogue River. Do you have a good picture of the old stage station at Rock Point? Maybe it is in one of your calendars, but I could not spot it.

Good to see Bert and Penny Wright again, and son Don. What a collection of traps! And he has built a nice little house for them, but it is already too small... I will be interested to see his elk heads after they are reworked.

Plan on coming south and letting me repay your hospitality some time soon.

Best regards to you both - and woof! To Pepper.

Mark

NEW LIBRARIAN

It is with regret that we say farewell to Jeannette Blankenship, who is moving on to the larger and busier library in Eagle Point. We were just getting to know Jeannette and establishing such a good working relationship between her and the historical society. She will be missed, but we also welcome out new Gold Hill Librarian, Anne Boydston, and look forward to working with her.

MUSEUM PROGRESS

Landscaping got a big boost in August with installation of a sprinkler system and enough sod to have lawn for the potluck. 'Twas great! The completely fenced yard has helped immensely. The interior stairway to the basement and painting of the enclosed back porch are approaching completion and really look great. Be sure to visit and take a look at all that's happening.

LETTER REGARDING OREGON HISTORY

By Ben Miller

FORWARD: This letter of Nov. 21, 1899 was written by Ben Miller in reply to an inquiry from T. F. Royal, Salem, Oregon. Mr. Royal was apparently assembling history about the Indian tribes and the effect the white man was creating.

Ben Miller

Gold Hill Ore Nov 21st 1899

T F Royal

Salem Ore

Dear Sir

At your request I send you a brief account of my adventures with indians as described.

I expect you will find it somewhat incomplete and disconnected all such I leave to you to rectify I also grant you full priviledge to use my name in conection and if you can make a moral of it set forth

And oblige Yours Truly

B F Miller

In the spring of 1855 I was in company with J M Sutton and W C Wilson mining at Sterling Jackson Co Ore There was a small band of Indians there who belonged to Elija an old exchief who claimed to be the Segnoir of both Sam and John Among this band was and extraordinary large and stout indian more intelegent than coman who boasted that he could outjump outrun or throw down anyother in the county we employed him payed and fed him well he became very friendly, indeed we treated him like a white man His name was Skookum Bill Just before the general outbreak of the indian Old Elija anounced to the whites that there would be a Skookum wa wa between him and Chief John of the Rogue Rivers Chief La Lakes of the Klamaths that night and that all must be quiet so that he might be able to hear them as they would be a mile and a half apart on a high mountain Elija stationed himself on a hill near the town-

Some time after dark an unearthly yell was heard which fairly eclipsed any mountain lion that I ever heard; the noise came from the high mountains south of Sterling Old Elija was up and answered with such a voice as I never heard before Then the wa wa continued most of the night; the conversaton was carred on in the indian language and no white man could understand but next morning a squaw went around and told miners that it was the determination of the indians to begin war against the whites on a certain day and that Elija and his band must join them or they would be killed with the whites; This he refused to do and threw himself on the miners for protection. The next day it was discovered that Skookum Bill was gone no one knew where News soon reched us that the outbreak was general throughout California Oregon and Washington Territories we fortified our little town the best we could but the indians did not harm it Business and travel was suspended for quite awhile There was a few stores a livery stable Blacksmith shop and plenty saloons but no Post office There was an express office kept by Daniel Kinney and all the mail for this place was brought from Jacksonville to Kinneys

office we had been a long time without hearing from friend or any news I supose there were 200 or 300 men there and of course all anxious to hear the news One day Mr Kinney said I will give anyman ten dollars to go over to Jacksonville and bring the Express; no one seemed to regard offer very tempting, but I needed the money and wanted a letter so I told him to give me an order and I would take the desperate chance I mounted my pony and started, the distance 8 miles all the way through rough mountains while going down a long deep canyon about half way to Jacksonville I sudenly met a band of mounted wariors armed and painted in frightful maner I saw it was no use to try to dodge a get away the leader was a hideous looking creature so I faced up to him and saluted in jargon Clihiam Six he returned the salutation and called me by name At his motion all his wariors stoped

He then asked me if I knew him I told him I did not he said he was Skookum Bill and that he was painted for war and that those men with him were his own selected men under his command and that the indians were exceedingly mad and they intended to kill all the whites then addressing me in jargon he said Niker cumtuk miker miker tumtum kaw quaw niker; Niker wake tickay mimaloos miker

Skookum Bill

He then asked me whear I was going and what for I told to Jacksonville to get a letter from home He said go and return alone I said that I would He returned and spok to his men in the Siwash tongue they all gave a peculiar asenting grunt; I was told hurry everyone stoped still and saluted as I passed I arived in Jacksonville got the express when a large croud gathered around excited over the circumstance Col Rays offered to send an escort with me but I would not agree to it, knowing indian nature to well got back to Sterling same day, got my $10 from Kinney besides a great deal from the miners A short time afterwards Skookum Bill was killed by other indians

B F Miller

(Note: All spelling and punctuation are as in the original letter)

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another summer with busy museum days has passed and our volunteers who graciously staff the museum, prepare the exhibits, catalog and photograph the artifacts, and generally keep things running, are looking forward to the autumn schedule to give them a little "breather". We could never manage without all of the generous help from these dedicated people, and like all volunteer organizations, sure could use more help -- just a couple hours a week can make a big difference.

I am working in the pear harvest again this year, as is another of our regular volunteers, so please contact us if you can assist in any way.

Our centennial room display has been well received and enjoyed by all who have visited. If you haven't seen it yet, be sure to come in for a look soon. The centennial year will soon be ending, and a new exhibit will be assembled before long.

Please join us for our meetings, or just to visit your museum, to see what's new.

Love you all!!

Marge

1996 CALENDAR

The 1996 calendars will soon be ready for the printer. Remember to save one calendar purchase for your Gold Hill Historical Society's calendar. The theme for this year is Gold Hill area schools, and Ted has rounded up lots of great pictures. It should be another memorable calendar.

THE GOLD HILL CENTENNIAL MEDALLION CELEBRATING GOLD HILL'S 100 YEARS

The word "GOLD" strikes fire in the hearts of men and helped create the settlement of the west. In 1853 gold was discovered in Southern Oregon, developed into a stampede by the 1860's and was a frantic enterprise for 20 years. In 1884 Thomas Chavener donated land for the town, aptly named GOLD HILL, which was then incorporated in 1895. To celebrate this momentous occasion, a .999 pure silver Centennial Medallion was struck. Facsimile shown here and is available for sale thru the Gold Hill Historical Society. See order form below. The coin contains 3 pure gold nuggets from this area, 2 on the face and 1 in the gold pan on the reverse side. An initial lot of 1000 coins are being run.

SEND ORDER TO:
GOLD HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
504 1st Ave. PO Box 26
Gold Hill, OR 97525

Please send me___ Silver
GOLD HILL CENTENNIAL MEDALLIONS
@ $25.00 each, no minimum order
Add $5.00 shipping & insurance.
This offer expires Dec. 31, 1995
Please make Funds payable to
"GOLD HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY"
Allow 3 weeks for processing.

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY,STATE,ZIP_____

_____

Total encl._____

__Check __Money order

To save shipping & insurance, you may purchase the medallion at the museum.

Sorry, we cannot process credit cards.

MUSEUM HOURS

With the arrival of Labor Day we are once again operating on "Autumn" days and hours. The museum is open 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This schedule remains in effect until Thanksgiving, at which time we will be open only on Friday, Saturday and Sunday until the return of our summer schedule on Memorial Day.

MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. in the museum, located at 504 First Avenue. Please join us for an evening of fellowship, some say-so in how your society is run, and some great refreshments. Next meetings are:

Wednesday, September 20, 1995, 7:00 P.M.
Wednesday, October 18, 1995, 7:00 P.M.
Wednesday, November 15, 1995, 7:00 P.M.
Wednesday, December 20, 1995, 7:00 P.M.

OFFICERS

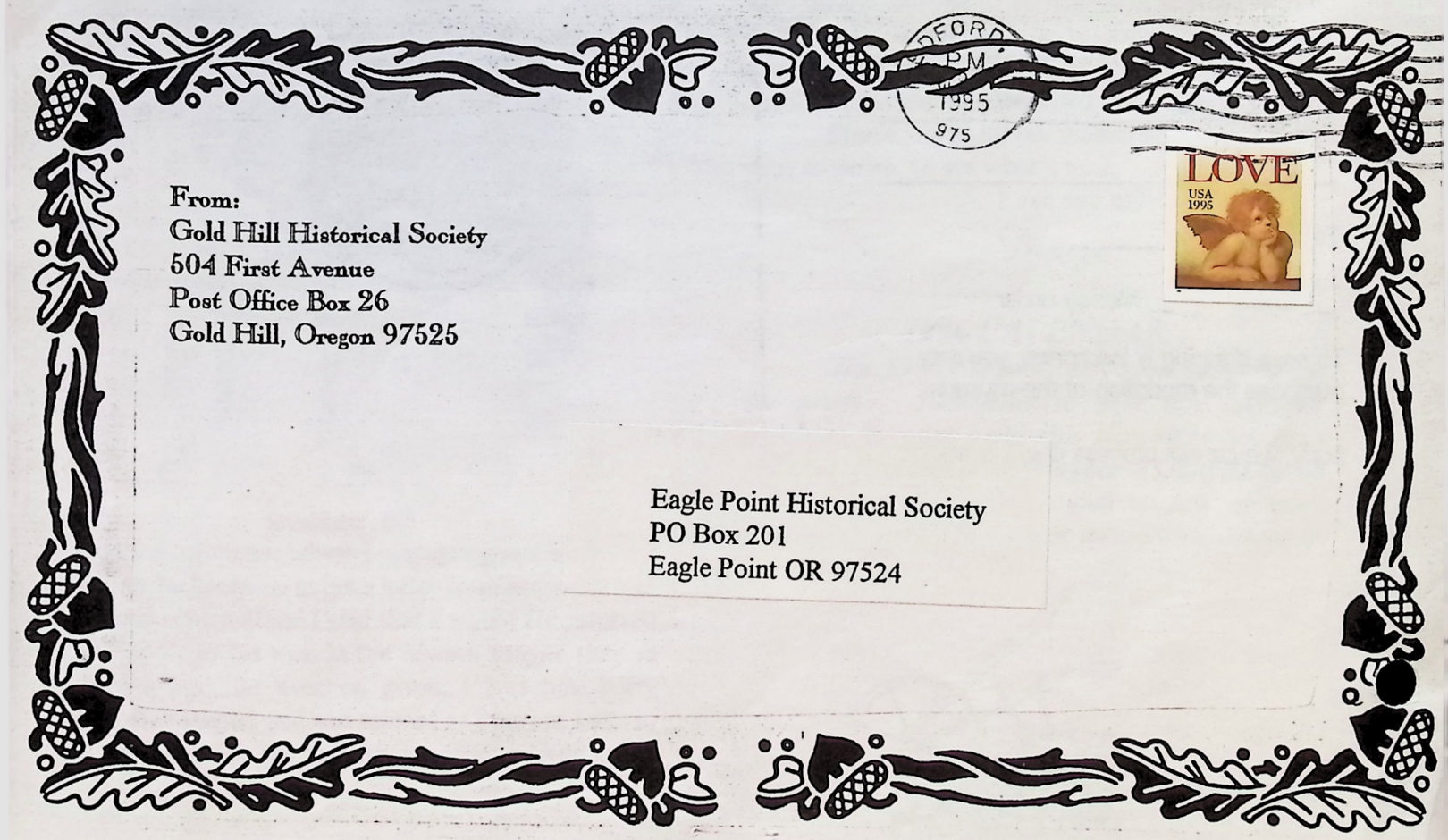
President - Marge Martin -- 855-1559
Vice-President - Alyce Bottelson -- 855-1889
Secretary - Ted Wharton -- 773-4525
Treasurer - Donna Saddler -- 826-1756

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Summer is now over and its time to settle into our fall and winter routines. Don't forget to take time to enjoy life and have some fun! Celebrate the holidays and all days!!

Columbus Day, Monday, October 9th (observed)
United Nations Day, Tuesday, October 24th
Halloween, Tuesday, October 31st
Veterans Day, Saturday, November 11th
Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 23rd
Hanukkah, Monday, December 18th
Christmas, Monday, December 25th
New Years Day, Monday,. January 1, **1996**

Happy New Year!!



From:
Gold Hill Historical Society
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Eagle Point Historical Society
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Eagle Point OR 97524